

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /043 W  
----- 079277

R 161000 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3167

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4634

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: LDP DIETMAN ISHIHARA DECLINES TO ANNOUNCE  
TOKYO GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDACY

REF: TOKYO 4138

SUMMARY: DIETMAN SHINTARO ISHIHARA CALLED AT LDP HEADQUARTERS APRIL  
12 TO PRESENT NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO SECRETARY GENERAL TOMISABURO  
HASHIMOTO REQUEST THAT HE ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY NOW FOR  
1975 TOKYO GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN. ISHIHARA  
REPORTEDLY ASKED THAT HASHIMOTO QTE DRAW CURTAIN ON REQUEST UNQTE

,  
THUS ENDING ACT I OF HASHIMOTO SCENARIO CALLING FOR ISHIHARA  
TO LEAD LDP FORCES IN TOKYO ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN IN JULY. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL HASHIMOTO APRIL 12  
TO TURN DOWN LDP REQUEST THAT HE RUN FOR GOVERNOR,  
ISHIHARA READ PREPARED STATEMENT TO PRESS, EXPLAINING THAT  
REQUEST CAME TOO SUDDENLY FOR HIM TO COORDINATE VIEWS WITH HIS  
SUPPOTERS, AND TO FORMULATE QTE ISHIHARA VISION UNQTE OF TOKYO  
METROPOLITAN ADMINISTRATIOFGM IN IT HE PROMISED, HOWEVER,  
TO DO BEST IN ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN, AS CHAIRMAN OF  
ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE, FEDERATION OF TOKYO LDP CHAPTERS, WITHOUT  
RELATING THIS TO OWN CANDIDACY. ASKED BY PRESS WHETHER HIS  
REFUSAL BINDING ON FUTURE, ISHIHRA TEMPORIZED WITH RESPONSE  
THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER MATTER ANEW AT FUTURE TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ISHIHARA REACHED DECISION TO REJECT  
HASHIMOTO BID FOLLOWING APRIL 6 MEETING WITH 150 LEADING BACKERS,  
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WHO WARNED THAT LDP ONLY SEEKING TO USE HIS IMAGE AS ANTI- LDP  
MAVERICK CALLING FOR REFORM OF ESTABLISHMENT FROM WITHIN.

3. HOWEVER, PRESS CONTINUES TO FEED SPECULATION THAT ISHIHARA  
HAS LEFT DOOR OPEN TO RECONSIDER AFTER TOKYO ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS,  
BYREPORTING THAT ONE CLOSE DIET COLLEAGUE SAID THAT HE HAS 80  
PERCENT DESIRE TO RUN, AND THAT MANAGER OF PAST CAMPAIGNS SAID  
THAT EVEN IF HE WERE TO RUN, ISHIHARA WOULD BE UNWISE TO ANNOUNCE  
CANDIDACY NOW FOR ELECTION TO BE HELD TWO YEARS HENCE.

4. COMMENT: ISHIHARA NOT UNIVERSALLY WELCOMED AS CANDIDATE EVEN  
WITHIN LDP, WHERE MANY CRITICIZE HIS DECISION TO LEAVE UNEXPIRED  
TERM IN UPPER HOUSE TO URN FOR LOWER HOUSE IN DECEMBER. HIS  
TOKYO SECOND DISTRICT DIET COLLEAGUE, TOKUMA UTSUNOMIYA ( LDP) HAS  
STATED TARTLY THAT PARTY NEEDS POLICY, NOT TALENT CANDIDATE.  
MOREOVER, JCP SECRETARY TETSUZO FUWA IN PRESS CONFERENCE LAST  
WEEK  
SHARPLY CRITICIZED ISHIHARA' S GAULLIST NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
POSITION, INDICATING PROBABLE LINE OF CAMPAIGN ATTACK BY  
REFORMIST PARTIES SHOULD ISHIHARA LATER DECIDE TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR  
OF TOKYO.  
INGERSOLL

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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